



PLACER COUNTY
SHERIFF
CORONER-MARSHAL



MAIN OFFICE
P.O. BOX 6990
AUBURN, CA 95604
PH: (530)889-7800 FAX: (530)889-7899

TAHOE SUBSTATION
DRAWER 1710
TAHOE CITY, CA 96145
PH: (530)581-6300 FAX: (530)581-6377

EDWARD N. BONNER
SHERIFF-CORONER-MARSHAL

STEPHEN L. D'ARCY
UNDERSHERIFF

PRESS RELEASE

Date/Time of Release: **September 21, 2005 / 4 PM**
Date/Time of Occurrence: **September 21, 2005 / 2:20 PM**
Nature of Call: **Inmate Worker Leaves Work Crew**
Location of Call: **I-80 westbound at Ophir Road**
Case Number: **SO-05-13922**
Released by: **George Malim, Lieutenant 530-889-7862**

SHERIFF EDWARD N. BONNER RELEASES THE FOLLOWING:

An inmate who was serving a one hundred and eighty day sentence for Driving Under the Influence walked away from a work crew this afternoon.

Ross Dean Whitaker, 37, of West Sacramento, walked away from a Cal Trans work crew that was picking-up trash along westbound Interstate 80 near Ophir Road. A Placer County Sheriff's Correctional Officer was supervising the six person crew. As soon as the officer noticed Whitaker missing, he began a hasty search and located Whitaker's hardhat, orange vest, and trash bag behind a guardrail.



Ross Whitaker

Within minutes over twelve deputies were on scene as well as several California Highway Patrol officers and the CHP Helicopter. An extensive search was conducted both by air and on foot and included the use of a Sheriff's K-9. Whitaker was not found.

Whitaker is a white male, 5'11", 195 pounds with blonde hair and blue eyes. He was last known to be wearing jail issued clothing consisting of a denim shirt, blue jeans and brown work boots. The shirt and pants are marked with "PCSO Inmate" on the back of the shirt and legs of the pants. The marking on the shirt is in black and on the pants it is yellow. Whitaker was serving his time in the jail's minimum security facility was scheduled to be released on

December 14, 2005.

Anyone with information as to Whitaker's whereabouts is urged to contact the Placer County Sheriff's Department at 530-889-7800.